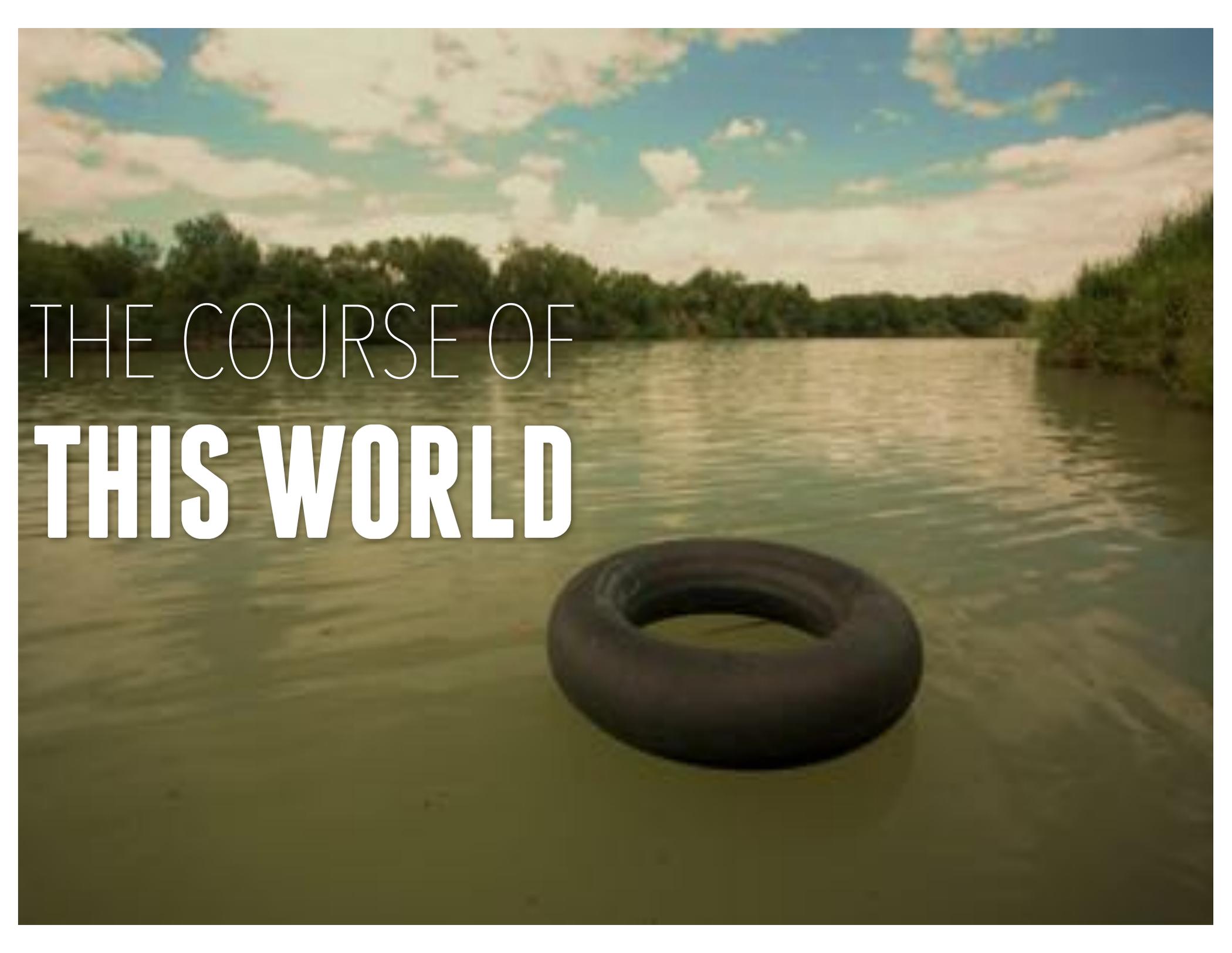# MADE ALIVE

EPHESIANS 2:1-7

THE WALKING DEAD

- "You were dead . . . in which you formerly walked" – People are going through the motions of life without really being alive, at least as God would have it.

- Notice that sin is never an adequate replacement for life in Christ. This is also true of things that aren't necessarily sinful, such as thrill seeking, athletic accomplishments, relationships, careers, or cultural experiences.

- "Were" and "formerly" indicate that the Ephesians left the life of sin behind (also see vv. 3 & 5). They replaced a vain, empty existence for one that had eternal purpose and merit.

THE COURSE OF
THIS WORLD

INDULGING

- More than anything else, the course of the world is presented as the easy path, that of least resistance. Where God restricts (for our benefit), the world indulges (to its hurt).

- Many reject God because they do not want to submit to His authority – they don't want to be restricted. Yet it's the course of the world that really makes you a tool to Satan, unwittingly enslaved to a destiny of destruction (Rom. 6:12ff, 2 Pet. 2:19). This slavery to indulgence results in numbness. We pursue things that can never satisfy (Haggai 1:5-6).

- The world doesn't really care about you – individuals become stats, voting blocs, racial stereotypes, consumers.

WE FORMERLY LIVED

- Notice that it is possible to "live" in sin. It's not just a matter of single, isolated acts of sin that define the sinner, but a lifestyle (fornication, adultery, etc.).

- It is important to be understanding with sinners, since we too all formerly lived under the same condemnation. Each person's sins might be somewhat unique, but falling short of the glory of God is universal.

- "Flesh and mind" – Both are impacted by sin, and both need to be changed in order to leave the old life behind. Thinking and action are connected to each other (Proverbs 23:7).

BY NATURE

RICH

- God is rich, we are poor – We might think of ourselves as very rich in many ways. The illusion of comfort and security keeps us from leaning on Jesus for the solution to our incredible poverty. Watch out for this in your own family as you help shape the priorities that will define the rest of your child's life.

- 2 Corinthians 8:9, Ephesians 1:7-8, 1:18-19

- We are dirt poor when it comes to our most pressing needs – death and sin. This is why God's riches are always described in terms such as "riches of His grace" and "rich in mercy."

IN CHRIST

- "In Christ" – The phrase is used repeatedly (vv. 5, 6, 7, 10) in the context. We are in Christ upon our conversion to Him through obedience to the gospel.

- How is verse 5 accomplished? How are we "made alive together with Christ?" It is through baptism (Galatians 3:27, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

- Romans 6:1ff clearly indicates that baptism is the means by which the old self dies and the new self is raised up, all with Christ!